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ABSTRACT

Designed for braille transcribers and teachers of the visually handicapped, this document consists of three short articles about literary braille. The first article discusses the changes in the official literary braille code which became effective on October 1, 1980. The second article describes problems commonly encountered by students and transcribers. The third article focuses on errors frequently found in braille transcriptions. (LH)

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SHARPEN your skills

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LITERARY BRAILLE

More On the 1980 Code Changes

Patricia Burns, Chairman

This column will conclude the discussion of changes in the official literary braille Code which became effective on October 1, 1980.

The words of, and, for, the, with and a should be written together without spaces between them when they occur in succession, whether or not there is a natural pause following *any* of them.

In Lesson Three, Section 13 should be amended. The first paragraph should read as follows: "These signs are used to represent whole words or parts of words. When used as whole words and when two or more of them appear in sequence, these contractions, as well as the word 'a', should follow one another without a space between them." The second paragraph should be eliminated. This change affects sentences 7 and 8 in Drill 10.

The words to, into and by should be joined to the word which follows whether there is a natural pause or not. In this regard, sentences 23, 24, 25 and 26 in Drill 16 are affected. Lesson Seven, 43 g. should be deleted.

The rule concerning to, into and by in connection with punctuation still applies. In addition, the words to, into and by may be used when they are both preceded *and* followed by the capital and/or italic sign. Lesson Seven, 43 e. should be deleted. In Lesson 14, 70 i. the paragraph before the examples should be deleted. This new ruling will affect the following: Drill 16, sentences 21 and 22; Drill 18, sentence 20; Drill 21, sentence 9; and Drill 27, sentence 17.

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LITERARY BRAILLE

A POTPOURRI

Pat Burns, Chairman

I'd like to share with you a few things that have come my way and crossed my desk during the X number of years that I have been transcribing and teaching braille.

Following are some recent problems you have asked about . . .

A series of titles with dates of publication: *The Ballad of Billy Rose (1964), The Loud Winter (1967), and Ransoms (1970).* In this case, the dates are not incidental and each title must be italicized separately.

A series of titles consisting of one word each: *Highwaymen, Footpads, and Rufflers.* The first two must be preceded by the double italic sign and the last by the single italic sign.

Students and transcribers are always concerned about erasures. Of course, no one likes them but occasionally they become necessary. There are several things to remember. Never erase in a space or in a number. The "best" erasures are those that are masked by surrounding dots such as erasing a dot 2 between dots 1 and 3 changing an "l" to a "k" or changing a dot 2 to dot 4 or vice versa if you have reversed "and" and "y". Some transcribers tell me they moisten their erasers with their tongues to make a better erasure.

A few catch phrases:

When in doubt, spell it out. This is especially true in dealing with contractions in proper names. Don't guess.

In teaching dot 5 initial letter contractions, here's one: "lord, mother, name one part right some time." The student has learned eight new contractions easily.

And finally, a good rule of thumb — a hyphen *joins*; a dash *separates*.

One last thought: Are you receiving *Update*, a publication from National Library Service, The Library of Congress. If not, just write and ask to be put on the mailing list. There is much information of real value to the student, the transcriber and the teacher of English Braille.

NBA Bulletin, Fall 1982

A Potpourri of Problems & Pitfalls

Pat Burns, Chairman

The following discussion focuses on errors frequently found in braille transcriptions, including trial manuscripts. Extra care should be taken in brailling and proofreading to pick up these mistakes.

Frequently overlooked contractions:
of - so*f*a, pro*of*, so*f*t, alo*of*
many - Ger*many*, Tan*many*
right - *right*en, b*right*er
part - Spar*t*an
ness - Ten*ness*ee

Using the double capital sign in a title:
THE HISTORY OF A FREE PEOPLE

The word "A" is composed of a single letter, and only the single dot 6 is used. The word "PEOPLE" is a one-cell whole-word contraction in braille, but the *word* is comprised of more than one letter and must be preceded by the double capital sign. And remember, you cannot join OF and A—each word must be individually capitalized with spacing between the words.

When a capitalized letter is preceded by the apostrophe, the apostrophe is placed before the capital sign, for example: 'Twas.

The capital sign always immediately precedes the letter affected, with ONE exception — the accent sign. When a letter is both capitalized and accented, the dot 6 (capital sign) precedes the dot 4 (accent sign); for example: Émile — transcribed dot 6, dot 4, Émile.

When periods are not used in abbreviations in the print text, do not insert periods in braille. For example: Dr, Mr, Mrs, etc. In this case a problem arises concerning St for Street or Saint. Do not use the letter sign *or* the contraction. Write out the letters St, preceded only by the dot 6. (Use of the contractions without the period would read "Still".)

Other frequent errors will be discussed in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

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